

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HONG K 05868 100535Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INSE-00  
/041 W

-----056914 100635Z /17

R 100450Z MAY 78  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 283  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
US MISSION GENEVA 777  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 5868

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF  
SUBJECT: INDOCHINA REFUGEES ABOARD BRITISH SHIP SIBONGA

REF: STATE 116301

1. HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPT (HKID) INFORMED US THAT SIBONGA  
ARRIVED HONG KONG MONRING MAY 10 WITH THE 17 INDOCHINA REFUGEES  
ON BOARD. HKID WILL NOT GRANT LEGAL ENTRY, BUT WILL ALLOW THEM  
TO TRANSIT HONG KONG FOR ONWARD FLIGHT TO LONDON.

2. THE 17 REFUGEES ARE PRESENTLY SCHEDULED DEPART HONG KONG EVENING  
MAY 11 TO ARRIVE IN LONDON ON MAY 12. ICEM HONG KONG WAS ASKED  
BY HKID TO ARRANGE MOVEMENT AND UNHCR HAS AGREED TO PAY TRANSPORTA-  
TION COSTS.

3. HKID REGARDS UK AS COUNTRY OF FIRST ASYLUM FOR THESE REFUGEES.  
REFUSAL BY HKID TO LEGALLY ADMIT SIBONGA REFUGEES TO HONG KONG  
IS BASED ON CONVICTION THAT IT CANNOT MAKE EXCEPTION TO ITS  
PRINCIPLE THAT FIRST ASYLUM CAN BE GIVEN ONLY TO THOSE  
REFUGEES ON VESSELS WHICH HAS HONG KONG AS NEXT SCHEDULED  
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PORT OF CALL. HKID STILL BELIEVES THAT ALL THE REFUGEES  
ON SIBONGA SHOULD HAVE BEEN GRANTED FIRST ASYLUM IN  
THAILAND.

4. UNRELATED TO INFORMATION ABOVE, 9 MORE INDOCHINA  
REFUGEES ARRIVED IN HONG KONG BY SMALL BOAT ON MAY 10  
MAKING TOTAL NUMBER ARRIVALS LAST SEVERAL DAYS 109.

BOTH NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES AND HKID BELIEVE THAT MORE  
BOATS ARE ON THEIR WAY HERE.  
SHOESMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, SHIPS, SIBONGA, SEA RESCUES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978HONGK05868  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780197-1115  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** HONG KONG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780575/aaaacloa.tel  
**Line Count:** 65  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** d95530a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION HA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 116301  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2739067  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDOCHINA REFUGEES ABOARD BRITISH SHIP SIBONGA  
**TAGS:** SREF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/d95530a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014